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207
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SPAWN
SZYMON KUDRANSKI

Todd McFarlane and Image Comics Present

JON GOFF
Plot

TODD McFARLANE
Additional Plot

WILL CARLTON
WRITER

SZYMON KUDRANSKI
ARTIST

FCO PLASCENCIA
COLOR

TOM ORZECHOWSKI
LETTERING

PREVIOUSLY IN *SPAWN*

The Old Guard begins their series of tests to determine the strength of the new Spawn's powers. Jim proves that he's quite the force to be reckoned with.

Meanwhile, the citywide manhunt for Jim continues, and Detective Rowand questions Jim's motives.

As word of Jim's healing ability travels, his celebrity status increases, and Marc tries to capitalize on it as much as possible. However, a mysterious connection to the Vatican could put an unexpected kink in his plans.

Back in the alleys, Twitch goes searching for Al, only to find an infuriated Jim in his place. They're exchange leads to a standoff, but little does Twitch know what he's in for.

JON GOFF
Additional Scripting

SZYMON KUDRANSKI
Cover Artist

Todd McFarlane
Editor

Nax Lecter
Traducción
y
Maquetas

Managing Editor
Jen Cassidy

Art Director
Ben Timmreck

Production Artist
Joe Ferstl

Publisher for Image Comics
Eric Stephenson

SPAWN CREATED BY
TODD McFARLANE

image
TODD McFARLANE PRODUCTIONS
SPAWN.COM

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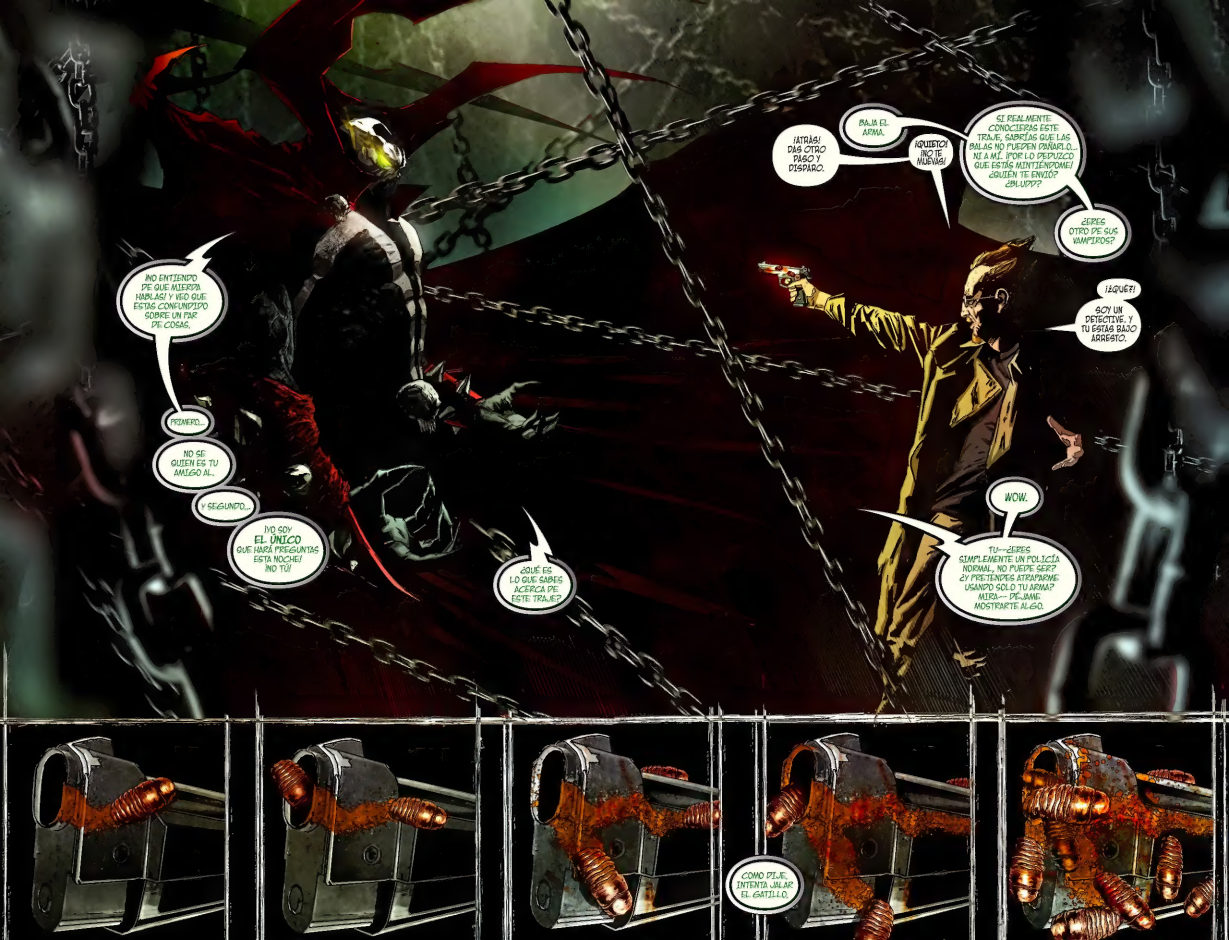
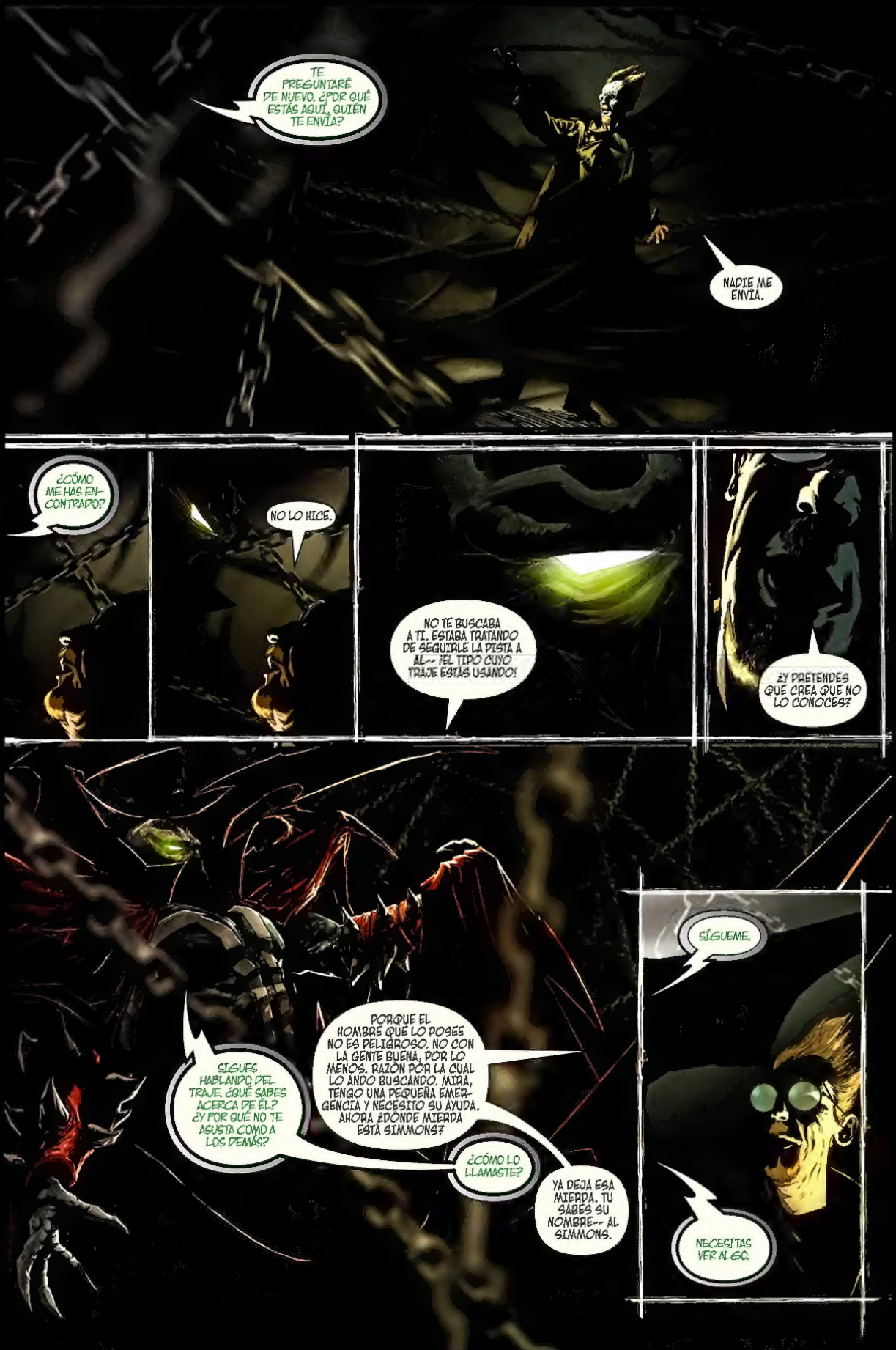
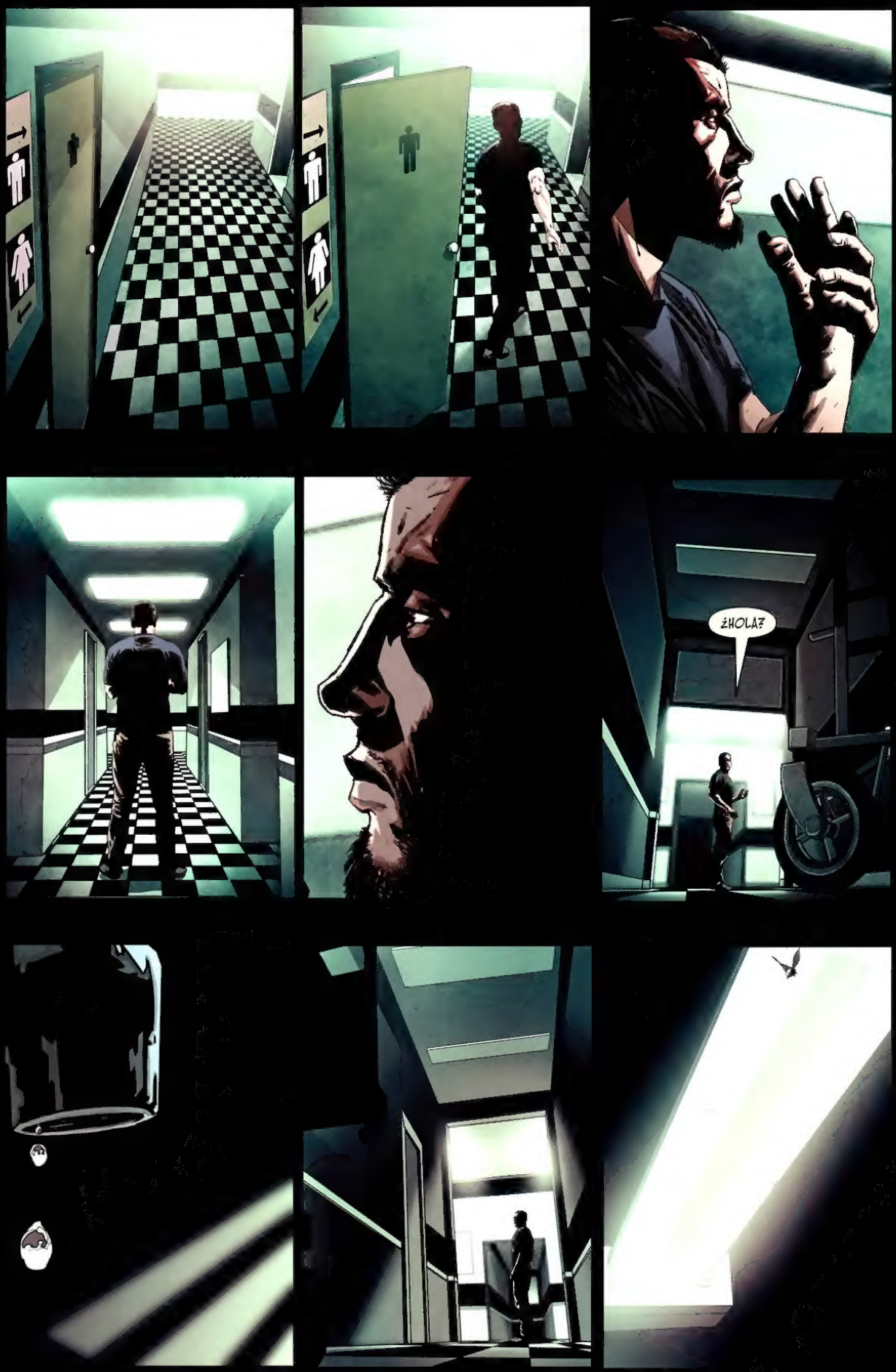
HAZLO.
JALA EL GATILLO.
¡QUIERO QUE JALES EL GATILLO!
Y LO HARÉ.
PERO, PRIMERO QUIERO RESPUESTAS.
¿DÓNDE ESTÁ AL? ¿POR QUÉ USAS SU TRAJE? Y ¿POR QUÉ HUYES DE LA POLICÍA LUEGO DE SALVARLE LA VIDA A UN HOMBRE?*
Número 205-- Todd.
ALGO NO TIENE SENTIDO. A VER, AYÚDAME CON ESTO. PRIMERO, SALVAS GENTE EN LA TV NACIONAL-- DEJANDO QUE CUALQUIERA RECONOZCA TU ROSTRO-- LUEGO ¿INTENTAS ESCAPAR DE ESO? ESO NO LO HACE ALGUIEN CON LA CONCIENCIA LIMPIA.
¿QUÉ ESTÁS ESCONDIENDO?
Y DEJA DE HACER ESE TRUCO CON EL TRAJE. YA LO HE VISTO ANTES... LO HACÍA MI AMIGO, AL.
DIME-- ¿DÓNDE ESTÁ ÉL?


¡NO ENTIENDO DE QUE MIERDA HABLAS! Y VEO QUE ESTAS CONFUNDIDO SOBRE UN PAR DE COSAS.
PRIMERO...
NO SE QUIEN ES TU AMIGO AL...
Y SEGUNDO...
¡Y! SOY EL ÚNICO QUE HARÁ PREGUNTAS ESTA NOCHE! ¡NO TÚ!
¿QUÉ ES LO QUE SABES ACERCA DE ESTE TRAJE?
¡ATRÁS! DAS OTRO PASO Y DISPARO.
¡BAJA EL ARMA.
¡QUIETO! ¡NO TE MUEVAS!
SI REALMENTE CONOCIERAS ESTE TRAJE, SABRÍAS QUE LAS BALAS NO PUEDEN DAÑARLO... NI A MÍ. ¡POR LO DEDUZCO QUE ESTÁS MINTIÉNDOME! ¿QUIÉN TE ENVIÓ? ¿BLUDD?
¿ERES OTRO DE SUS VAMPIROS?
¡¿QUÉ?!
SOY UN DETECTIVE. Y TU ESTAS BAJO ARRESTO.
WOW.
TU—¿ERES SIMPLEMENTE UN POLICÍA NORMAL, NO PUEDE SER? ¿Y PRETENDES ATRAPARME USANDO SOLO TU ARMA? MIRA— DEJAME MOSTRARTE ALGO.
COMO DIJE. INTENTA JALAR EL GATILLO

FEX FEX
TIENES SUERTE, ESTÁ ATORADA.
NO, NO LO ESTÁ.
ESTÁ SIENDO COMIDA.


TE PREGUNTARÉ DE NUEVO. ¿POR QUÉ ESTÁS AQUÍ, QUIÉN TE ENVÍA?
NADIE ME ENVÍA.
¿CÓMO ME HAS ENCONTRADO?
NO LO HICE.
NO TE BUSCABA A TI. ESTABA TRATANDO DE SEGUIRLE LA PISTA A AL-- ¡EL TIPO CUYO TRAJE ESTÁS USANDO!
¿Y PRETENDES QUE CREA QUE NO LO CONOCES?
SIGUES HABLANDO DEL TRAJE. ¿QUÉ SABES ACERCA DE ÉL? ¿Y POR QUÉ NO TE ASUSTA COMO A LOS DEMÁS?
PORQUE EL HOMBRE QUE LO POSEE NO ES PELIGROSO. NO CON LA GENTE BUENA, POR LO MENOS. RAZÓN POR LA CUAL LO ANDO BUSCANDO. MIRA, TENGO UNA PEQUEÑA EMERGENCIA Y NECESITO SU AYUDA. AHORA ¿DÓNDE MIERDA ESTÁ SIMMONS?
¿CÓMO LO LLAMASTE?
YA DEJA ESA MIERDA. TU SABES SU NOMBRE-- AL SIMMONS.
SÍGUEME.
NECESITAS VER ALGO.


¿HOLA?

¿HAY ALGUIEN AQUÍ?
DIJE... ¡HOLA!
¿ALGUIEN?

ESTO NO ME GUSTA.
Twitch Williams
CALLING
tek
"SE HA COMUNICADO CON EL DETECTIVE WILLIAMS. NO ESTOY DISPONIBLE EN ESTE MOMENTO. SI SE TRATA DE UNA EMERGENCIA MARQUE EL 911, SI NO, DEJE SU NOMBRE Y UN CONTACTO Y ME COMUNICARÉ TAN PRONTO ME SEA POSIBLE."
TWITCH, SOY ROWAND.
SIGO EN EL HOSPITAL-- PERO ALGO ANDA MAL POR AQUÍ, ESTO PARECE UN MALDITO PUEBLO FANTASMA, SÉ QUE ES TARDE, PERO ¿NO DEBERÍA HABER ALGUIEN DE SERVICIO? TU CONOCES ESTE LUGAR MEJOR QUE YO.
¿ESTO ES NORMAL?
DE TODOS MODOS, BUSCARÉ A UN DOCTOR Y TE VOLVERÉ A LLAMAR CON EL ÚLTIMO PARTE DE SAM--
CHKK

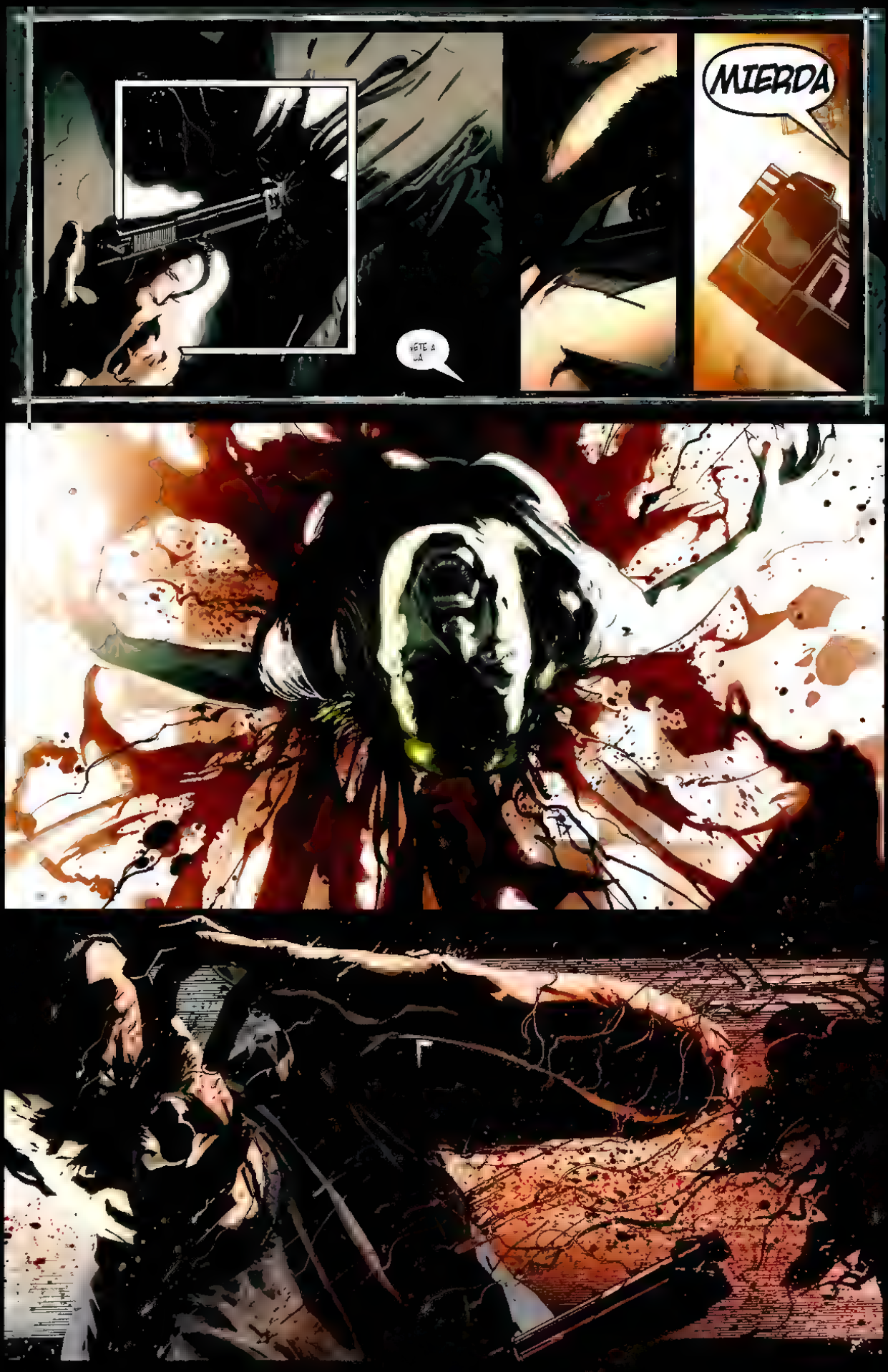
Department of Health
HEALTH BRANCH
BURKE, SAM
TEMPERATURE CHART
CHKK
TE LLAMO LUEGO.
CHH-CLLKK

21
¿SAM--?
¿ERES TÚ?

¿QUÉ MIERDA?

¡NO SÉ QUE ES LO QUE ESTÁ HACIENDO--- PERO NECESITO QUE BAJE DE AHÍ!
¡YA!
¡SUELTE LO QUE TIENE EN SUS MANOS, Y PÓNGALAS DONDE PUEDA VERLAS! ¡¿ME OYE?!
¡NO ESTOY JUGANDO, SEÑORA!
HHHHSSSSSSSSSSS

HHH HHHHHH
BLAM
BLAM
MIERDA
¡NO DEBERÍAS INTERFERIR EN CUESTIONES QUE NO TE CONCIERNEN!
¡NO DEBERÍAS INTERFERIR!
¡NO TIENES DERECHO!
guh
uk

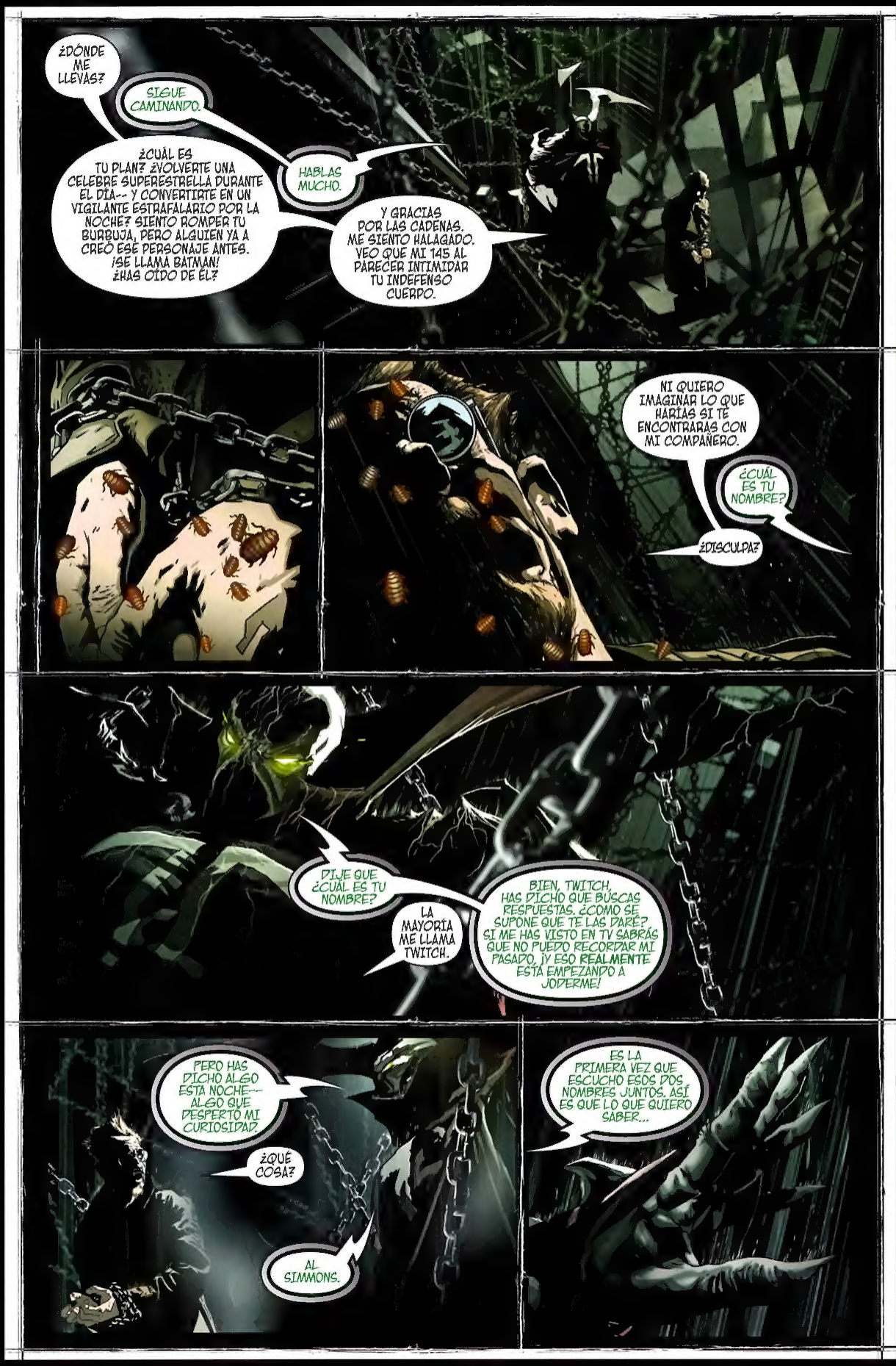

¡VETE A LA
MIERDA

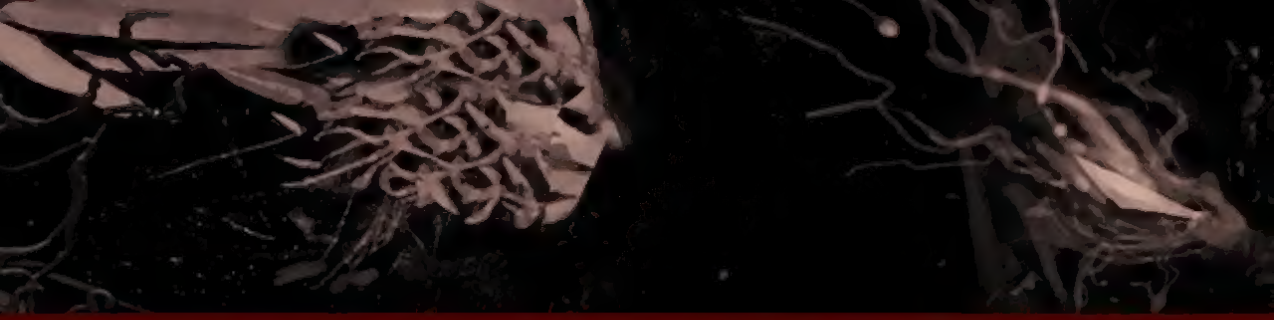
ELLOS SE DISGUSTARÁN...
¡DEBO IRME!
Cristo
KLIK
EXIT

¿SEÑORA?
¡SOY EL DETECTIVE CRAIG ROWAND! ¡TRABAJO EN EL DEPARTAMENTO DE POLICÍA!
USTED ESTÁ SEVERAMENTE HERIDA Y NECESITA ATENCIÓN MEDICA URGENTE!
NESECITO QUE ME ESCUCHE.
¡PARE DE CORRER Y VENGA A DONDE LA PUEDA VER! ALLÍ NO HAY SALIDA.
KRACK

¡QUIETA!
AHORA... BAJE LENTAMENTE DE LA CORNISA. USTED NO QUIERE SALTAR.
NO LE VOY A HACER DAÑO. LO JURO.
SÍ LO HARÁ. ES LO QUE LOS HUMANOS HACEN. SE HIEREN UNOS A OTROS.
MIRE SEÑORA, SÉ QUE ESTÁ ATURDIDA, PERO NECESITA AYUDA. TENEMOS QUE PARAR LA HEMORRAGIA. POR FAVOR-- SOLO ALÉJESE DEL BORDE, ASÍ PODEMOS BAJAR Y BUSCAR A UN DOCTOR.
ÉL VA A DESECHARTE, TAMBIEN, ASÍ COMO LO HIZO CONMIGO.
¿QUIEN?
TU REDENTOR.
ÉL ÚNICO ENVUELTO EN ROJO. ÉL ÚNICO CON MASCARA.
YO... NECESITO QUE SE CALME.
RESPIRE HONDO Y ACERQUESE A MI. TRANQUILA, DESPACIO. ESTO TERMINARÁ PRONTO

¿SABES LO QUE LE HIZO A MI CORAZÓN?
MUY PRONTO LO LAMENTARÁ.
¡ALTO! ¡NO SALTE!
APUESTO QUE PENSÓ QUE LO HABÍA OLVIDADO.
QUE NO ME IMPORTÓ.
PERO SE EQUIVOCÓ.
NO LO OLVIDÉ. SOLO ESPERABA.
Y AHORA EL HELLSPAWN--- JUNTO CON ESTE MISERABLE MUNDO EN EL QUE VIVE--- ¡SABRÁ LO QUE ES QUEDAR COMPLETAMENTE EN EL OLVIDO!
PRONTO SERÁS TESTIGO DE LA ¡CONDENACIÓN ETERNA! ÉS TU TAREA LLEVARLE ESTE MENSAJE.
¡SILENCIO!!
¡SOLO DALE EL MENSAJE!
ESTOY SEGURO QUE TIENE RAZÓN--- EN TODO LO QUE DIJO. SOLO ALÉJESE DE--
¡NO!


¿DÓNDE ME LLEVAS?
SIGUE CAMINANDO.
¿CUÁL ES TU PLAN? ¿VOLVERTE UNA CELEBRE SUPERESTRELLA DURANTE EL DÍA-- Y CONVERTIRTE EN UN VIGILANTE ESTRAFALARIO POR LA NOCHE? SIENTO ROMPER TU BURBUJA, PERO ALGUIEN YA A CREÓ ESE PERSONAJE ANTES. ¡SE LLAMA BATMAN! ¿HAS OÍDO DE ÉL?
HABLAS MUCHO.
Y GRACIAS POR LAS CADENAS. ME SIENTO HALAGADO. VEO QUE MI 145 AL PARECER INTIMIDAR TU INDEFENSO CUERPO.
NI QUIERO IMAGINAR LO QUE HARÍAS SI TE ENCONTRARAS CON MI COMPAÑERO.
¿CUÁL ES TU NOMBRE?
¿DISCULPA?
DIJE QUE ¿CUÁL ES TU NOMBRE?
LA MAYORÍA ME LLAMA TWITCH.
BIEN, TWITCH, HAS DICHO QUE BÚSCAS RESPUESTAS. ¿COMO SE SUPONE QUE TE LAS DARÉ? SI ME HAS VISTO EN TV SABRÁS QUE NO PUEDO RECORDAR MI PASADO. ¡Y ESO REALMENTE ESTÁ EMPEZANDO A JODERME!
PERO HAS DICHO ALGO ESTA NOCHE--- ALGO QUE DESPERTÓ MI CURIOSIDAD.
¿QUÉ COSA?
AL SIMMONS.
ES LA PRIMERA VEZ QUE ESCUCHO ESOS DOS NOMBRES JUNTOS. ASÍ ES QUE LO QUE QUIERO SABER...



SPAWNING GROUND

letterspage@mcfarlane.com
P.O. Box 12230
Tempe, AZ 85284-0038

twitter.com/Todd_McFarlane
www.facebook.com/liketoddmcfarlane

Hi everyone,

A new month, and a new exciting issue of *Spawn* with quite the cliffhanger! Be sure to check back in next month to find out what happens between Spawn and Twitch in the alleys. It's an issue that shouldn't be missed.

Now, Todd takes the floor to answer letters and Facebook questions. Thanks for writing in, everyone!

Jen Cassidy

Managing Editor

Todd and the Spawn team,

Like so many of the other letters I've read in the comic of late, I am also a loyal fan, having collected *Spawn* (and the various spin offs) since issue 1 in 1992 (I'm now 33).

I was beginning to lose faith, to be honest, in where things were going (it kind of seemed disjointed and out of control). The last two story arcs have renewed my vigor in the book, specifically Szymon Kudranski's visuals... WOW!

Although others have already expressed my sentiments in previous letter columns, I'll say again that the story and art makes me feel like I am watching a movie unfold. Fantastic!

I'm an Australian fan of the book, and popping in to my local comic book shop (about 50 kms away) isn't always easy. Spawn has remained my only constant and 'full' collection over the past 19 years. I was there at the start and will continue to be.

By the way, I think it's time you updated the *Spawn Bible* from a few years back.

Congratulations and thanks again for the enjoyment over the years.

Haydn B.

Melbourne – Australia

It's always nice to get some international flavor in the book, both on the creative end (Szymon, Fco, and myself ... hey, I'm Canadian!), and with the fans reading the title.

Obviously, it's humbling to hear from people who've stayed with the comic book since the first issue, through thick and thin. I understand every comic has its high points and its low points. For somebody to be on our side through it all is something they should be applauded for.

Glad you like the new direction we're taking, which we started at #201. Like I've said before in these pages, I, too, am excited about the direction we're going. Yes, it is supposed to come across as a movie. Either you read it or you see it, and other than those two things, if you don't understand it, then that's our fault creatively. There's no such thing in movies as thought balloons. The odd time you can use voiceovers. The big thing you'll see in *Spawn* is that we won't use big wordy captions, unless they're voiceovers. If you like this style, then you'll dig what we have coming up.

Lastly, we've been thinking about doing an update on the *Spawn Bible*. When we make a final decision on it, we'll let everyone know.

- TODD

Just picked up issues 199-205 today. I am a faithful fan. I don't go much to the comic book store nowadays, but when I do, I can guarantee you that I will grab all back issues of *Spawn* that I missed. Issue 199-200 ... typical Todd/ Greg *Spawn* artwork from page to page since issue #1.

Now, issue 201-204 ... I'm a little bit ticked off with some of the pages. The digital art; what is up with the Photoshop? This has to stop. It's the reason I quit picking up other Image comic books out there. Issue 205 was a little better than the last four. Hope it stays that way. Thanks for your time.

Bernard B.

Thanks for your letter and your comments. Let me go on record to say, we're going in a new direction with this book, and you, the reader, need to determine if this is something you want to spend your money on. I'm here to tell you, I actually like the look of it. The traditional, standard, American,

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letterspage@mcfarlane.com
P.O. Box 12230
Tempe, AZ 85284-0038

twitter.com/Todd_McFarlane
www.facebook.com/liketoddmcfarlane

superhero comic book BORES me. I did it for decades, and I'm completely BORED of that style. Oh, and by the way, there's no lack of it out in the marketplace. So, if that is what interests you, there are literally thousands of books where you can get that fix.

I'm not willing to have my book look like thousands of other comic books. What I'm trying to do is come up with a look and feel for the book that I think is conducive for the style. Hopefully, this appeals to the guys like me, who are getting a little bit older, and looking for something with just a little bit more sophistication.

So, the reason that it looks super real is because that's what it would look like if I was filming it. I keep on saying, we intend on getting the second *Spawn* movie out, and all the people will look real, all the buildings will look real, and all the cars will look real. That's what it will be, even though it's dealing with the fantastic.

So, this is just a bit of a primer for those people who may or may not get excited about what we're doing in the future with the movie. The *Spawn* comic and the *Spawn* movie is not meant to be *Iron Man* the comic book or *Iron Man* the movie. That's not what we're trying to be. If I wanted to, I would be doing something completely different in my book. We've done that. We had 200 issues of it. It's not where we're at right now.

We're actually getting a lot of responses from people who are saying the opposite of you. They like the adult spin we're putting on the book. This is the path we're going down, and I'm digging it. Will and Szymon are doing a hell of a job.

- TODD

Stuart M. from Facebook asks:

Issue #185 had a multi-cover release with a couple hard to gets ... can we expect another limited release in the near future?

Well, we just had multiple covers with *Spawn* #200. I can't say I'm a huge fan of that gimmick, and I try to limit it as much as possible. I think, at times, it takes advantage of the loyal consumer.

We'll do it from time to time, but we'll definitely space it out. I still think you should live and die, being old fashioned, on the merits of your comic book from month-to-month.

-TODD

Sophize G. from Facebook asks:

I have a question that is not on *Spawn*. Todd, what does an Editor's job consist of?

I can't speak for other Editors at other Publishers, but I can tell you what my role is.

My role is to help instigate and help begin the process of starting the plot of each issue, and even more so, to keep an open dialogue with Will and Jon Goff about the direction of the book, one, two, or three years down the line. I need to make sure everyone's thinking about it in bigger terms.

I take a look at the artwork, and if something doesn't seem right, I comment back to Szymon, and/or do a quick sketch for him.

I go over the dialogue on the word balloons making corrections so the language flows a bit more natural. I also make sure all the word balloons are in the right spot. I fix the colors, when necessary, as well.

There's nothing in the comic book that I don't sort of touch and noodle. A lot of the changes are minor, and probably unnoticeable to you, but they're changes that are important to me, and I want to create the best product I can.

In the cliché "the whole is better than the sum of its parts", I've always felt that a comic book that can produce good story, good art, and good color is a good book. My job as the Editor is to deliver a hell of a lot of good books.

-TODD

Daniel M. from Facebook asks:

What can we expect to see evolve in the realm of Jim's costume and powers? Will the envelope continue to be pushed visually?

Yes, it will be pushed visually, and his powers will continue to surprise. One of the things I don't want to do is say that every power that the costume is capable of will be repeated from the first 200 issues, and there is nothing new I can add to it.

My goal is to add new powers and situations that are different and interesting. For those of you that have been hanging around for 200 issues, I want you to go, "Wow! I haven't seen that before." We're getting that right now with Jim being able to heal people. That's a byproduct of Jim having these powers and this costume. Al Simmons didn't really use the costume in the same way Jim is starting to. He only used it to cure people at the odd time, but he paid a great price for it.

-TODD

Dylan C. from Facebook asks:

The Old Guard, are they dead? Jim tore them up pretty bad in 206, but I know death doesn't mean a lot when we're dealing with Heaven and Hell. A lot of characters have died and come back (Clown). Is this what will happen with the Old Guard?

Like I said in response to one of the previous questions, if we're going to say someone's dead, I'll try to keep them dead. I agree with you, though. Once you start dealing with angels, and demons, and that sort of spiritual stuff, the same rules of science don't necessarily apply to that. So, it's much easier to bend those rules more so than if we're dealing with someone who's a human.

If I was dealing with Jason Wynn, or Terry Fitzgerald, and I ripped their arm off, that arm would remain off for the duration of the character's life. You don't have to do the same thing with characters from the fantastic because they come from other realms. They could technically regenerate an arm if they wanted to. I don't like abusing or injuring any character, and then three issues later they're back to normal.

-TODD

NEXT ISSUE

Spawn 208
"Q&A" – PART 2 (of 4)

Twitch's confrontation with Jim comes to a head, leading to a stunning act of violence and an unexpected encounter that will have a lasting impact on Twitch – both for good... and bad. Across town, Detective Rowand deals with the aftermath of the demonic attack on Sam and his own ability to grasp the true nature of the threat – is Hell really coming to Earth?

*Note: Cover subject to change